

DE WET A MENTAL WRECK

**BOTHA SAID TO HAVE LEARNED THIS
AND RENEWED PEACE OVERTURES.**

**The Report Comes From Cape Town and Lacks
Official Confirmation—Persistent British
Pursuit Said to Have Worn Out the Brill-
iant Boer Leader His Men Deserting.**

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN

LONDON, April 11. — For weeks past reports have been current to the effect that Gen. Christian De Wet has lost his reason in consequence of his incessant anxiety, his inability to rest or sleep, owing to the unrelaxing pursuit of his men by British columns. Although these stories have been attributed to their prisoners and have been accompanied with details, it has been impossible to accept them as entirely convincing, as they all came through unaffiliated British channels, which, however well the intentions may be, are not always trustworthy.

To-day there comes a statement from Cape Town reaffirming the tales of De Wet's mental collapse and asserting that in Berlin, Berlin.

Door Commander-in-Chief, having satisfied himself of their truth, has renewed negotiations with the British military officials for the conclusion of peace.

It is known that Gen. Botha very recently visited Gen. De Wet in the neighborhood of Heilbron, and there, according to the Cape Town despatch, he discovered that Gen. De Wet's intellect had been weakened to the extent that he was not responsible for his actions and had lost his influence over his followers, who were rapidly forsaking him.

These facts, according to this sorry conviction, reached Gen. Botha that a continuance of the armed struggle would be unprofitable.

A Cape Town despatch to the *Daily Telegraph* contains a similar story which the correspondent says is self-evident. He says Gen. Botha has had a further interview with Lord Kitchener whom he informed of Gen. De Wet's condition and added that De Wet refused to entertain the idea of surrender on any terms. Gen. Botha, however, regarding De Wet as irresponsible, desires a modus

The newspaper adds that the only possible terms obviously are unconditional surrender.

The newspaper is chary in accepting the Cape Town story. The *Times* remarks that Cape Town is hardly the place from which early and trustworthy news on such a subject is most likely to come.

STOLE THE OCEAN BEACH LETTERS

Thomas F. Martell, a Messenger at Station G, New York, Confesses.

The two packages of lined letters which were found on the beach at Ocean Grove a week ago were stolen by Thomas F. Martell, a mail messenger, from Station G, Broadway and Fifty-first street. Chief Inspector King and Inspectors Jacobs and Kyle got Martell.

It was found by examining the letters that they must have come into New York on two trains which got into the Grand Central station at about 6 o'clock on Sunday morning, March 31. The mail which comes in at that time is taken for distribution to Station G. There the inspectors learned that some

of the mail had been put up in four pouches and that Martell had been sent to carry the pouches to the elevated station at Fifteenth street and Sixth avenue at 7:50 A. M. They also found that Martell on that morning had a scrap with the messenger on the train and that the engineer of the train, being in a hurry, pulled out his train and went on up-town without the pouches. The result was that Martell had to wait two hours for another train with a messenger on it.

They also learned that on April 2 Martell bought a \$14 suit. They also learned that he had \$7 a week out of his \$9 pay to live on.

lather for beard. Then they concluded Marks had found the right man, and the investigation was ready to begin. "Healing and curing" was a long "consultation" with the inspectors in the Post Office Building. At 9 o'clock last night he confessed and was locked up in the church street station.

According to the inspectors, Martell said he had been waiting in Station G on Sunday morning for the second train. He saw two packages of mail lying on a table, apparently forgotten. He took them to a saloon and rifled them, getting \$50 in bills. These he hid in his coat, going to the river at the foot of West 44th street, and they went out with the current.

Martell is 25 years old. He lives with his

E. G. STEVENS DIES SUDDENLY.
A Graduate of West Point and Formerly Captain in the Regular Army.

Edward G. Stevens was found dead in his bath room yesterday afternoon by his landlady, Maria Reimers, over whose restaurant at 41 West Twenty-second street he had apartments. He was 52 years old. Stevens had lived alone three of and on for the last five years. He was in the city quite busily

ness at 27 William street, and was a cousin of John Stevens Melcher, a lawyer of the same downtown address.

Stevens went out on Tuesday night to see the Buffalo Bill show and also to call on C. J. Cody. He saw the show, but couldn't finish the Colonel. When he returned to his room he complained of being ill and of not feeling altogether well. When he did not appear yesterday morning Mrs. Reimers became anxious and went to his room. She found the body, partly dressed, with the head resting on the side of the bath tub. Coroner J. P. Weston said that Stevens had died

Col. Bill Coyle said last night that years ago he knew Stevens well on the plains.

"He was graduated from West Point early in the '70s," said Coyle, "and was assigned to the fifth cavalry in Nebraska as a second lieutenant. He afterward became a captain. I was there then as a scout and took Stevens out on his first buffalo hunt. He was a sure shot, a splendid horseman and a general favorite in the army."

Coyle said he graduated from West Point fifteen years ago, when his father died, to take charge of his father's manufacturing business in Clinton, Mass. He has since then been an officer on the staff of some Massachusetts Governor.

a card addressed to Mr. Stevens, was in his room.

GETS DOCK ROOM RENT FREE.

Hoboken Gives North German Lloyd Line a 999 Year Lease.

The ordinances granting the North German Lloyd Dock Company a lease for 999 years of land at the foot of Third and Fourth streets Hoboken, free of rental, on which to build new piers, were passed yesterday by the Hoboken Board of Council by a vote of 7 to 2.

Flood in the Penobscot Beats All Records.
BANGOR, Me., April 16.—The water in the Penobscot River rose to a pitch today that far surpassed any records ever known, and the condition along the river tonight from Bangor to Oldtown, twelve miles above, resembles in many ways the great flood which covered this region in 1846. The river is filled with a mass of floating ice, logs, bridges and parts of buildings. Railroad traffic is entirely stopped.

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1